

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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O 031350Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0242

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01951

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, UK, US, XA
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN
SECRETARY CROSLAND

1. AMB YOUNG, COOKS, KEOGH AND SEITZ SAW FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND (WITH TONY DUFF) FEBRUARY 2. CROSLAND OPENED ON RHODESIA WITH THE FLAT STATEMENT THAT "WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO NEXT. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT." HE SAID THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S RECENT STATEMENTS HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL, BUT HE FEARS THAT SMITH WILL NEVERTHELESS GO FOR AN INTERNAL OPTION. IF THE FIGHTING ESCALATES AND CUBAN FORCES ARE INTRODUCED, SMITH WILL COUNT ON A SWING IN US/UK PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH ALONG WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS, WILL BAIL HIM OUT. YOUNG ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS FROM THE BRITISH ON ACTIONS THE U.S. MIGHT TAKE CONCERNING RHODESIA.

2. FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND AGAIN SAID THAT THE BRITISH FOUND SECRETARY VANCE'S RECENT STATEMENT ON RHODESIA EXTREMELY HELPFUL. THE U.S. MUST GET ACROSS IN AFRICA THE IDEA THAT THE "SMITH REGIME HAS HAD IT", THAT IT CANNOT
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RELY ON THE U.S. FOR SUPPORT.

3. CROSLAND REPORTED ON WHAT HE CALLED A VERY UNCALM INTERVIEW BETWEEN IVOR RICHARD AND PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA. HE ASKED YOUNG TO TRY TO LEARN TWO THINGS DURING HIS TRIP:
--WHAT, IN CALMER MOMENTS, KAUNDA AND NYERERE THINK

MIGHT BE NEXT STEPS.

--WHAT TACK THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS PLAN TO TAKE
REGARDING MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE.

CROSLAND SAID IT WOULD BE "EMBARRASSING IF WE WERE
COMPELLED TO DROP MUZOREWA." HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE
"VERY HARD FOR US" TO ADOPT NYERERE'S SUGGESTION THAT
GENEVA BE RECONVENED WITH ONLY THE UK AND THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT IN ATTENDANCE, WITH THE RESULTS TO BE FORCED ON
SMITH.

4. CROSLAND SAID THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE IN A "CLEFT
STICK" ON RHODESIA. THEY CAN'T PUT MORE PRESSURE ON
SMITH BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN PUBLIC OPINION. BUT NEITHER
CAN THEY BACK HIM FULLY AND OPENLY. CROSLAND SAID
VORSTER CAN COMMUNICATE WITH SMITH, BUT FOR THE MOMENT
THE SOUTH AFRICANS DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO.

5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID HE WAS POSITIVE ABOUT THE
PROGRESS MADE SO FAR. SINCE AMBASSADOR RICHARD BEGAN
HIS EFFORTS, AT LEAST SOME COHESIVENESS HAD BEEN ACHIEV-
ED BY THE NATIONALISTS. FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS NOW HAD
SOME LEADERSHIP WHICH THEY COULD IN SOME SENSE CONTROL.
YOUNG SAID HE DID NOT RULE OUT GETTING THE NATIONALISTS
TO AGREE TO A REASONABLE SET OF PROPOSALS. HE STRESSED
THAT A MAJOR PROBLEM REMAINS THE SECURITY CONCERNS OF

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01951

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THE WHITE COMMUNITY. "THEY WON'T VOLUNTEER FOR CHAOS,"
YOUNG SAID, AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD EXPLORE WITH
KAUNDA AND NYERERE THE QUESTION OF ASSURANCES TO THE
WHITES. HE REPORTED THAT AMONG EARLY U.S. MOVES WOULD

BE A SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT. THERE WOULD BE SOME OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS TO REPEAL, BUT THIS COULD BE OVERCOME SINCE AN IMPORTANT LIBERAL DEMOCRAT FROM A STEEL-MAKING DISTRICT CHANGED HIS POSITION TO FAVOR REPEAL. (JOHN DENT - D. PA.)

6. TONY DUFF SUGGESTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR ON HIS AFRICAN TRIP POINT OUT TO THOSE HE MEETS THE DANGERS OF RATIFYING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE. ANOTHER "SWAPO SITUATION", HE SAID, WOULD INFINITELY COMPLICATE THE PROBLEM. CROSLAND AGREED.

7. YOUNG NOTED THE INCREASING WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT RADICAL SOLUTIONS, AND SHIFTS IN FRAME OF REFERENCE IN WHICH RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS WERE DISCUSSED. HE CONCLUDED BY REMARKING THAT HE BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH THE NIGERIANS.

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